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## EDITORIAL.

### OUR POSITION ON THE GAS QUESTION.

The Journal of Labor is unable to agree with what is reported to be the position of the city administration in the settlement of the so-called gas situation in this city. Our main reason for this is that we can not see how the position taken by the city in the matter can possibly be in line with the best interests of the laboring men and the smaller users of gas generally.

The gas question has arisen here because of the shortage of natural gas. It appears that the gas fields in these sections of the country do not yield nearly as much natural gas as is needed and that they are now being depleted at a very rapid rate. The Journal of Labor has this upon the authority of those who produce and distribute the gas. It is also confirmed by the U. S. Geological Survey, other Governmental Bureaus, the Louisville Board of Trade and many other investigators. The Public Service Commission of Ohio has found the gas shortage so great that in order to conserve the gas for cooking, lighting and moderate amounts of heating it had to limit the consumption for heating on a large scale by any one consumer to 35,000 cubic feet per month. This course was deemed necessary although the cities in Ohio are more favorably situated with respect to the supply of natural gas than cities in the neighboring states. The cities in Ohio not only have fairly good local fields to draw upon but most of them began to use gas so early that they secured prior claims upon the gas in the West Virginia fields. The United States Fuel Administration for the same reasons as those which prompted the action of the Ohio Commission has also been forced to limit the use of gas by the large users. In Louisville, for instance, it found that the larger users could not be allowed more than 1,000 cubic feet per day of natural gas alone, without depriving the smaller users of as much gas as they ordinarily need in cold weather. The situation in Louisville is also greatly aggravated by the fact that many of the larger users of gas for heating are located so near the intake of the gas into the mains that when the supply of gas is low they can often take all the gas they want for all purposes when the smaller user does not even get enough gas for cooking.

The Fuel Administration, the Public Service Commissions and other Government Bureaus have not only found an existing and rapidly increasing shortage of natural gas but they have provided and suggested rational remedies for such shortage. Through orders they have restricted the use of such gas to its most important uses for the greatest number of persons. In their reports in the matter they have not only justified such restrictions but they have shown that large scale heating should be done by coal, and that wherever possible the natural gas should be supplemented by manufactured gas. These bodies and persons are unbiased as well as competent. They are viewing the situation not in the light of interested persons but in the light of the greatest good to the community as a whole. What they have done and said in the matter will bear the most severe tests. It should be considered and followed by the utilities as well as by the public.

The local gas company is not only willing to be guided by the orders and recommendations just mentioned but it has repeatedly pointed out that it can not furnish good service for cooking, lighting and moderate amounts of heating unless some restrictions were imposed on the use of gas on a large scale for heating of not to exceed three per cent of all of its customers, and unless in addition to this the natural gas is supplemented by moderate quantities of manufactured gas. It has gone farther than this. It has offered to furnish such manufactured gas at cost without profit during the coming winter. It has also closed contracts for additional supplies of natural gas from the outlying borders of the Triple State gas field, which extends from West Virginia into Floyd and other counties in this state.

The position of the city officials in the matter differs entirely from the course thus outlined. The city not only resists the order of the Fuel Administration limiting the use of gas for large scale heating but it is opposed to the furnishing of even the smallest quantities of manufactured gas. It seems to think that through prosecutions and other obstructions it can force the gas company to do the impossible, or to furnish enough natural gas for all purposes during all kinds of weather. Its representatives have even gone so far as to state that all the people of this city would rather suffer from the shortage of gas than to have the use of gas for heating by a few large customers curtailed, and than to have the natural gas mixed with small amounts of manufactured gas.

The Journal of Labor feels that it is its duty to take the side that is of the greatest benefit to the laboring men and others who make up the great majority of those who are dependent upon the gas service. In doing so it must choose between the position of the United States Fuel Administration and those who take the same view on the one hand and the position of the city administration on the other. The Journal of Labor has no hesitancy in saying in this connection that the only position it can fully and conscientiously endorse is that which is represented by the Fuel Administration. This position seems to it to be by far the best for the people of this city. Under this plan all but a few large users will have enough gas for all purposes in all kinds of weather. The disadvantage that comes from this making the few heat their homes with coal will be offset many times by giving the many all the gas they need. The remedies thus suggested by the Fuel Administration are also such that they can be quickly applied when the cold weather brings on a gas shortage and as quickly lifted when the cold spell is over. It seems to the Journal of Labor that unless the natural gas shortage can be lifted no better or more practical remedies than those can very well be suggested.

The position taken by the city is far from favorable to the people as a whole. While under it a few wealthy and large users may get all the gas they need in cold weather the fact can not be disproved that at the same time or on the coldest days the great majority of the people, that is, the working people, will not have enough gas for cooking alone, to say nothing about heating. A telling example of this is found in the gas shortage which took place last winter and in the suffering which arose therefrom. Nor can the course of the city ever lead to any permanent relief of the situation. For as pointed out by the experts and as shown by general experience there is no hope that the cities in these sections of the country will ever be able to obtain all the natural gas they need in cold weather. This is at any rate true as long as the natural gas is sold at lower prices than other fuels. In the light of these and other facts the Journal of Labor can not help but feel that the position of the city will harm rather than help the laboring men as well as the people as a whole, and that it fails to offer a rational solution of the gas problem.

—From the Journal of Labor, December 7, 1918.

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## RECENT DEATHS.

William Walton, aged twenty-one, son of Mrs. Mary Walton, 1010 Fehr avenue, died Sunday, and on Wednesday the funeral was held from St. John's church. Besides his mother he leaves four sisters and three brothers.

Sunday evening death called Mrs. Minette Glass, beloved wife of Andrew Glass and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. August Helm, 2527 West Market street. She was twenty-three years old and a wide circle of friends mourn her death. Wednesday morning Rev. Father Maloney conducted the funeral services at St. Columba's church.

Sad indeed was the death of Mrs. Ben B. McAuliffe, the young wife of Ben B. McAuliffe, of 1041 Seventh street, who died early Thursday morning after a week's illness of pneumonia. Besides her husband she is survived by two little boys, Dennis and John, and her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Brady. The funeral took place from St. Louis Bertrand's church this morning at 9 o'clock.

Patrick Davern, born in County Galway, Ireland, August 3, 1841, but for many years a resident of Louisville and a faithful employee of the Louisville Varnish Company, died of Bright's disease at his home, 436 South Nineteenth street, leaving a wife and three sons, James, Martin and John Davern, to mourn his death. His funeral was held Saturday morning from St. Patrick's church, Rev. Father Cronin saying the requiem mass.

Relatives and friends were grief-stricken when Joseph Nold, Jr., died of "flu" at his home in New Albany. He was the son of Joseph Nold, Superintendent of the Louisville Anzeiger and resided here until his marriage to Miss Eva Smith, of New Albany. Besides his wife he leaves three children. He was a member of St. Mary's church, from where the funeral was held Tuesday morning, and was also a member of Louisville Council, K. of C.

Monday at noon the soul of Mrs. Eleanor Sullivan Vetter, beloved wife of Louis K. Vetter, 2029 Maryland avenue, was called into heavenly rest and peace, following an illness of short duration. Mrs. Vetter was in her thirty-third year and was a woman who won the love and respect of all who knew her. Only a short time ago her sister died. Besides her husband she leaves three small children and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Sullivan. The funeral was held Wednesday morning from St. John's church, of which she had been a devout communicant.

Miss Ida Alma Hubbuch, twenty-six years old, and popular with all patrons of the Louisville Public Library, died early Sunday morning of influenza at the home of her sister, Mrs. George T. Settle, 1380 Overacker Court, and throughout the city her death is mourned. Besides Mrs. Settle, wife of Librarian George T. Settle, Miss Hubbuch is survived by another sister, Mrs. Charles W. Dowd, of Rockford, Ill., and a brother, Otto J. Hubbuch, of Chattanooga, Tenn. Funeral services were held Monday afternoon with interment in St. Michael's cemetery.

Mrs. Amelia Steltenkamp, aged thirty-four, a highly esteemed member of St. John's parish, succumbed Monday night to pneumonia at her home, 734 East Chestnut street. She was the beloved wife of William Steltenkamp, connected with the Bourbon Stock Yards. Besides her husband she is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Scally; four sisters, Mrs. Hite Pierce, Mrs. Mary Ann, Mrs. Catherine Cline and Mrs. Joseph Wadell, and one brother, John Scally, who is in the army. Her funeral took place Wednesday morning, Rev. Father Schuhmann celebrating requiem high mass.

News of the death on Sunday morning of John M. Maloney, Jr., eighteen-year-old son of Capt. John M. Maloney, of the Eighteenth Infantry Battalion and formerly Lieutenant of the Louisville mounted police, spread gloom throughout St. Cecilia's parish, of which he was one of the most popular young men. He was a graduate of St. Cecilia's school and was connected with the Louisville Auto Supply Company until a week before his death of pneumonia. Besides his parents he is survived by a brother, Edward Maloney, and a sister, Miss Mary Maloney. The funeral was held Tuesday morning at St. Cecilia's church.

Saturday morning the funeral of Mrs. Mary Sullivan Lawler, of 2007 West Broadway, was held from Sacred Heart church, of which she had long been a devout member, Rev. Father Walsh celebrating the requiem mass. Mrs. Lawler was born in County Cork, Ireland, seventy-two years ago, but came to Louisville in her girlhood. Besides her husband, Capt. Michael Lawler, she leaves one daughter, Mrs. Julia McShane, and three sons, M. D. Lawler, of New Castle, and James and Eugene Lawler, of this city; also a sister, Mrs. Della S. Dursi, of Mitsu Yuma, Miss, and twelve grandchildren. A devoted wife and loving mother and friend, many are mourning her death.

Dread pneumonia caused the death of Miss Catherine Greene, eldest daughter of Mrs. Anna and the late George W. Greene, at her home, 215 South Twenty-fifth street. Miss Greene was teacher of telegraphy for the Western Union, and possessed of a lovable disposition she numbered her friends by her acquaintances. She received her early education at the Sacred Heart school and the Louisville Commercial High School. Besides her mother she is survived by the following brothers and sisters: C. Joseph Greene, who is in the service at Camp McClellan; John Greene, of Detroit; George M. Edward P. and Richard Greene, of this city, and Misses Margaret, Emma and Julia Greene. Services were held from St. Charles Borromeo church Saturday morning, her burial occurring on the first anniversary of that of her father.

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